

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 8**

**March 21, 2003**

**SUBJECT: RELEASING THE NAME OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

**PURPOSE:** On March 8, 2000, California voters passed the "Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act of 1998," otherwise known as Proposition 21. The law, which effectively amends the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), gives law enforcement agencies greater authority and discretion over the release of information related to juveniles implicated in serious crimes.

This Order revises procedures for releasing basic information concerning a juvenile who is accused, arrested, or found culpable of certain criminal offenses.

**PROCEDURE:**

**I. JUVENILE INFORMATION RELEASE PROTOCOL.** Authorized personnel may release specified juvenile information in accordance with the procedures established by this Order. Authorized personnel are defined as Area commanding officers, Detective Section officers in charge (OICs), and Juvenile Coordinators.

**A. When a Warrant Has Been Issued For a Juvenile.**

Authorized personnel may release the name, alleged offense, and physical description of any juvenile when all of the following conditions are met:

- \* The juvenile is alleged to have committed a violent offense as defined in Section 667.5(c) Penal Code (PC);
- \* An arrest warrant for the juvenile has been issued, and he or she is not in custody;
- \* The release of the information would assist in the apprehension of the juvenile or the protection of public safety; and,
- \* There is no court order prohibiting release of the information.

**B. When a Juvenile is Arrested.** Authorized employees may release the name and alleged offense of a juvenile in custody when all of the following conditions are met:

- \* The juvenile is 14 years of age or older;

- \* The juvenile was arrested for any alleged felony as defined in Section 1192.7(c) PC;
- \* Upon request by "interested persons"; and,
- \* There is no court order prohibiting the release of the information.

**Note:** For purposes of this Order, the term "interested persons" is defined as any agency involved in the criminal justice system (e.g., probation, counselors, prosecutors, and detention facilities).

**C. When a Juvenile is Found Culpable.** Authorized personnel may release to the public the name of a juvenile, alleged offense, and final disposition of the case, when all of the following conditions are met:

- \* The juvenile is 14 years or older;
- \* The juvenile has been found to have committed any alleged felony as described in Section 707(b) WIC; and,
- \* There is no court order prohibiting release of the information.

Department employees who are authorized to release juvenile offender information should exercise their discretion in light of the facts and circumstances of the case in determining whether a request for information meets the particular criteria for release absent a court order prohibiting or compelling disclosure.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Section 3/406.10 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Juvenile Services Group, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Manual Section 0/080.30.

**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
Chief of Police

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